(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to fill the gap and to compete with the other countries in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Indian Army has drawn up plans for phased modernization of its artillery. A number of modernization schemes are being pursued with respect to induction of state of art weapon systems, ammunitions, surveillance system and support equipment of ensure that modernization of field artillery keep pace with technological advancements and opertional requirements.

Army cantonment at Bilaspur

† 2468. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision has been taken to construct an army cantonment in Bilaspur;

(b) if so, the status of action in this regard;

(c) the area of land that would be required for its establishment; and

(d) the details of the progress in its establishment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No decision has been taken by the Ministry of Defence to set up a cantonment in Bilaspur.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Operators against ULFA by army

† 2469. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a special operation is-being launched against ULFA in Assam, by the army;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.